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PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

GULICK, SIDNEY L. *America and the Orient*. New York: Missionary Education Movement, 1916. x+100 pages. \$0.25.

This timely volume by Dr. Gulick, for years a missionary educator in Japan, is so small that it can be read through in an evening, but of importance out of all proportion to its size. It is replete with facts respecting the Orient, especially Japan, and the relations of the United States to the lands of the East. But its greatest significance is in that it presents with extraordinary clearness the questions which require the attention of thoughtful Americans in reference to our relations to the Orient, and suggests the considerations that must be taken into account in answering these questions. It is intended especially as the basis of a series of class studies, and, could it be so used throughout the country, it would go far toward making and keeping America right with the Orient.

E. D. B.

BEACH, HARLAN P. *Renaissant Latin America*. New York: Missionary Education Movement of the U. S. and Canada, 1916. vi+258 pages. \$1.00.

No one was more competent to bring the substance of the three-volume report of the eight commissions of the Panama Congress within a small compass than Dr. Harlan P. Beach.

He begins by telling the story of the Congress. Then in eight succeeding chapters he deals seriatim with the reports of the eight commissions and with the discussions following their presentation. The tenth chapter contains an abridgment of the addresses. A concluding chapter deals with aftermath and estimates. The volume is interesting from beginning to end and for the busy reader meets an urgent need.

J. W. M.

RUST, JOHN B. *The Life and Labors of the Rev. Herman Rust, D.D.* Cleveland: Central Publishing House, 1916. 287 pages.

This volume is a biography of a man who, for a period of about fifty years, played an active, though not a specially conspicuous, part in the work of his denomination, the Reformed church in the United States of America. From 1851 to 1862 he was a pastor in Cincinnati, and from 1862 to his death, in 1905, a professor in Heidelberg Theological Seminary, Tiffin, Ohio, occupying for the greater part of that time the chair of "Exegetical and Historical Theology." He was evidently a good, pious man and an inspiring preacher, but he does not seem to us, judging from the quotations of his writings given in the book, to have displayed any marked ability as a scholar.

The book has very little to commend it to the general reader. The author inserts a large amount of material that has little or no relation whatever to the subject of the book. Many incidents that he relates are trivial and commonplace; in fact, some are entirely out of place (see, e.g., pp. 38 ff.). There are certain marks of unsophisticatedness, credulity, and amateurishness about the book that offend the sense of a scientific student. The chapter headings are not always apropos to the material contained in the body of the chapters themselves. Chapter xii, for instance, devotes about two pages to the "Endowment of the New Chair," which is the title of the chapter; the remaining eight pages deal with other matters. The author is conservative in his attitude of mind and sometimes goes out of his way to defend "evangelical

views" and to attack rationalistic tendencies. The book as a whole cannot be rated as a first-class work.

However, it must be said that it contains some material that will be of interest to those who belong to the denomination of which the subject of the book was a member. It throws light upon the liturgical and baptismal controversies that occupied the attention of this denomination a half-century ago, and it furnishes much information on the founding and early history of Heidelberg College and Theological Seminary. But for the general reader the book possesses little value.

E. Z.

MOORE, JOHN MONROE. *The South To-Day*. New York: Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada, 1916. xiv+247 pages. \$0.60.

Dr. Moore was born and reared in the South, has lived in different sections of it, and has been a close student of its economic, social, racial, educational, and religious problems. At the same time, his residence as a student in Ohio, at Yale, and in Germany has enabled him to see the problems of his own section in their proper relation to those of the country and the world at large.

By the South the author means the sixteen states which "comprise the old slaveholding territory." In his discussion of economic conditions most readers will find not a few surprises in store. For instance, we are told that in 1860 the white population of the fifteen slaveholding states was 8,099,760, but that the slaveholders numbered only 383,637, of whom 277,000 owned less than ten slaves each. To put the matter conservatively: "There were at least 6,000,000 southern people who had no direct interest in slaves." Again: "Of the three richest states in the Union in 1860, two were southern; of the five richest, three were southern; of the ten richest, six were southern; of the seventeen richest, ten were southern."

The chapter "The South's Human Problem" is devoted to a study of the negro, the mountain man, and the Indian. In each case the social, economic, intellectual, and moral conditions are discussed, as well as the agencies at work for their improvement. In his study of the industrial and political trend of the present day the author brings out the fact that the uniqueness of the South's problems is passing away, since its industrial and political life is taking on more and more those characteristics with which we are familiar in the northern and eastern sections of the country.

Religiously the South is conservative. The program of Protestantism laid down by the author is to meet the opposition which the immigrants from Roman Catholic countries offer to evangelical Christianity and public-school education with "light, truth, love, and the power of the Christ-life in its adherents."

In the concluding chapter specifically, as throughout the book implicitly, the author makes good his promise to strike the national rather than the sectional note. He sees the South girding for national service, hearing the call for nationalism and promoting patriotism.

In the appendixes are to be found, besides an excellent bibliography, tables containing much valuable statistical material, which makes the book serviceable as a work of reference. The style of the author is direct, clear, and simple. His volume is a timely contribution to a subject all too little understood, and it is to be hoped that it will be read and studied widely and thus serve to clear away much misunderstanding regarding the South.

H. B. C.